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BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER  
of HEALTH



and

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1971

Medical Officer of Health

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

H. W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.



*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Biggleswade Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1971.

The Vital Statistics section of the Report shows that there were 11 stillbirths and 15 infant deaths out of the total number of births of 658. The rates for stillbirths and infant mortality were 17 and 23 respectively, which were appreciably higher than those of either England and Wales or the Administrative County. 10 of the infant deaths occurred under the age of 4 weeks. Such deaths are usually connected with birth injury, difficult labour, and other causes of perinatal mortality. There was no maternal death.

The Causes of Death table repeats a familiar pattern. 268 of the total number of deaths were in respect of persons sixty-five years of age and over. 167 of the total number of deaths were due to heart and circulatory disease, 21 to lung cancer, of whom 19 were men, and 54 to diseases of the respiratory system.

Reorganisation of the National Health Service and Local Government is planned to take place on 1st April, 1974. It may be appropriate, therefore, to include in this Introduction one or two points which arise.

On the 1st April 1974 there will be for the whole of geographical Bedfordshire : (a) one County Council, and in its area there will be a number of District Councils, and (b) one Area Health Authority, which will be operationally responsible for all the National Health Services now administered by the County Council, the Executive Council and the three Hospital Management Committees in Bedfordshire.

As the very recently published White Paper points out, collaboration between the new County Council and the Area Health Authority will be essential. The former body will be responsible for the Education and Personal Social Services and the latter for the National Health Services and there is scope for much collaboration between them in the use of the premises and staff. As an example, the Area Health Authority will have in its employment doctors, dental surgeons and nurses who can be made available for work in the Education and Personal Social Services.

Collaboration would also be valuable between the Area Health Authority and the District Councils, and one way in which it could express itself would be for the District Councils to appoint as medical advisers ("proper officers") doctors employed as Community Physicians by the Area Health Authority at Hospital District level. The experience of most Medical Officers of Health of County Districts who are also engaged in County Council work, is that such an appointment would be most likely to provide the best services for the residents of the area.

In the text of the report I have mentioned some of the services provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority. All these have a beneficial influence on the health of people, and in that respect can be placed alongside the duties of County Districts in regard to the environment. In fact, joint action by officers of County Council and District Council is often necessary, and I acknowledge with gratitude the help given by the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff in matters of mutual concern.

In conclusion, I am grateful to the members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their ready co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1971

### 1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in acres .. .. .	50,827
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1971 .. .. .	37,170
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	11,084
Rateable value as at 31st December, 1971 .. .. .	£1,010,115
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£9,600

### 2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is mainly agricultural and is famous for its market gardening industry.

Small industry includes light engineering, brick making, milling and the manufacture of fertilizers over twenty-five scattered parishes.

Several villages such as Potton, Shefford, Arlesey and Stotfold are quite large; others like Astwick and Eyeworth are only very small hamlets. There has been considerable growth in the population of such villages as Langford and Clifton where young people have come to live. Many of these work out of the district.

### 3. VITAL STATISTICS

#### Live Births

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	315	306	621
Illegitimate .. .. .	15	11	26
Total	330	317	647

Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population ..	17.4
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population ..	18.1
Birth rate for England and Wales .. .. .	16.0

#### Still Births

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	5	6	11
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
Total	5	6	11

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births .. .. .	17.0
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. .	12.0



### Deaths

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes .. .. .	176	191	367
Crude death rate per 1,000 Home Population ..			9.9
Area comparability Factor .. .. .			0.81
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home Population ..			8.0
Death rate for England and Wales .. .. .			11.6

### Deaths Connected with Childbirth

Maternal Mortality .. Nil

### Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	5	8	13
Illegitimate .. .. .	2	—	2
	—	—	—
Total	7	8	15
	—	—	—
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .			23.0
Rate for England and Wales .. .. .			18.0
Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .			15.0
Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) .. .. .			14.0
Peri-natal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) .. .. .			30.0
Peri-natal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			22.0

### STATISTICAL TABLE, 1962-1971

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales	Biggleswade Rural	England & Wales
1962	9.5	11.9	19.8	18.0	12.6	21.4
1963	10.8	12.2	18.9	18.2	20.0	20.9
1964	9.9	11.3	18.6	18.4	12.7	20.0
1965	10.8	11.5	22.6	18.1	19.3	19.0
1966	9.9	11.7	21.7	17.7	14.9	19.0
1967	8.09	11.2	21.94	17.2	10.0	18.3
1968	8.26	11.9	20.69	16.9	16.0	18.0
1969	10.2	11.9	20.1	16.3	11.0	18.0
1970	9.1	11.7	19.7	16.0	16.0	18.0
1971	8.0	11.6	18.1	16.0	23.0	18.0

# CAUSES OF DEATH—1971

Cause	Under 15 years		16-64		65 and over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Oesophagus ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach ..	—	—	1	1	2	1	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Intestine ..	—	—	2	2	—	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus ..	—	—	7	1	12	1	19	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast ..	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus ..	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Prostate ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms ..	—	—	2	6	8	4	10	10
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ..	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2
Diabetes Mellitus ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2
Avitaminoses, etc. ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mental Disorders ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2
Multiple Sclerosis ... ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System ..	—	—	3	1	—	—	3	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ..	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	1
Hypertensive Disease .. ..	—	—	1	1	1	2	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease .. ..	—	—	16	5	28	27	44	32
Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	—	—	1	—	7	11	8	11
Cerebrovascular Disease .. ..	—	—	—	3	14	28	14	31
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	—	—	1	1	12	5	13	6
Pneumonia ... ..	1	—	1	3	12	24	14	27
Bronchitis and Emphysema .. ..	—	—	2	—	9	2	11	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	5
Peptic Ulcer ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System ..	—	—	—	2	2	3	2	5
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	—	—	2	—	—	3	2	3
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2
Congenital Anomalies ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ..	2	4	—	—	—	—	2	4
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions ..	—	1	—	—	2	8	2	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	1
All Other Accidents ... ..	—	—	1	—	2	2	3	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
All other External Causes ... ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
<b>TOTAL ALL CAUSES ... ..</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>191</b>

## 4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Bedfordshire County Council provides :

- (a) through its Health Committee the following services, amongst others—Health Centres, Care of Mothers and Young Children, Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery, Ambulance, Immunisation against Infectious diseases ;

- (b) through its Education Committee, a School Health Service ;
- (c) through its Social Services Committee, personal social services.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Executive Council provides the Family Practitioner Services.

The North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board provides consultant and hospital services.

## 5. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Much is achieved in the prevention of infectious disease by immunisation. Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are dealt with in the first year of life and measles in the second. Necessary re-inforcement doses are given at about five years of age.

Vaccination against rubella is offered as a routine to girls reaching their twelfth year, and arrangements are being made, with prescribed safeguards, for the vaccination of women of child-bearing age.

B.C.G. vaccination is offered, where appropriate, to children at the age of thirteen years.

There are also certain activities of officers of the Public Health Department which are important in the prevention and control of infectious disease. They are most readily recognisable in outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhoea and the surveillance of contacts returning from abroad, but there is a considerable amount of less spectacular but important routine work in connection with food hygiene and housing.

Table (a), which follows, shows that 159 cases of measles were notified. The large increase is part of that which occurred throughout the Administrative County in 1971, when of 2,780 total notifications, 2,282 were measles. It can reasonably be anticipated that the increasing number of vaccinations taking place—38 per cent of the children born in the year 1970 were vaccinated—will lead to a significant reduction in the number of notifications.

With regard to infective jaundice, the whole of the Administrative County seems more than usually prone to the disease. The cases here listed were associated with a small outbreak arising extraterritorially.

The absence of diphtheria and poliomyelitis reflects the success of immunisation against these diseases.



(a)

Disease	Notification by Age Groups					
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	Over 15	Total
Measles ... ..	6	74	73	4	2	159
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Meningitis ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	2	3	—	—	6
Dysentery ... ..	—	1	—	—	1	2
Infective Jaundice ... ..	—	2	4	—	1	7
Leptospirosis ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1
Tuberculosis Respiratory ... ..	—	—	1	—	3	4

(b)

**TUBERCULOSIS**

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1962–1971.

Year	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1962	9	3	1	1	14	3	—	1	—	4
1963	2	5	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	1
1964	2	2	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	1
1965	3	4	—	1	8	—	—	—	1	1
1966	7	5	—	—	12	1	—	—	—	1
1967	2	—	—	1	3	3	1	—	—	4
1968	1	2	2	—	5	—	—	1	—	1
1969	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
1970	5	3	—	—	8	2	—	—	—	2
1971	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed in the Railway Station Yard every Tuesday, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

There was no case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

**6. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA****(a) Public Water Supply**

Water is supplied by The Bedfordshire Water Board. It is pumped from the Greensand at works in Biggleswade, Dunton and Meppershall and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Samples are taken by the Water Board at frequent intervals for bacteriological and chemical examination and whilst results of the bacteriological examinations are not available, the following reports are typical of the samples taken for chemical examination.

These indicate that it is of a high standard of organic purity.

**CHEMICAL ANALYSIS**  
(in milligrammes per litre)

				Pumping Stations at		
				<i>Biggleswade</i>	<i>Dunton</i>	<i>Meppershall</i>
Turbidity .. ..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour .. ..	..	..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction pH .. ..	..	..	7.24	7.32	7.31	
Electric Conductivity ..	..	..	615	495	450	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	..	..	0.03	Less than	0.02	
				0.01		
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	..	..	0.02	0.01	0.01	
Nitrate Nitrogen ..	..	..	0.22	0.16	0.19	
Chloride as Cl .. ..	..	..	18	16	13	
Carbonate Hardness as						
CaCO <sub>3</sub> .. ..	..	..	242	204	172	
Non-Carbonate Hardness						
as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .. ..	..	..	50	11	29	
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>			292	215	201	
Calcium as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ..	..	..	254	191	167	
Magnesium as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ..	..	..	38	24	34	
Free Carbon Dioxide ..	..	..	29	20	18	
Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub> .. ..	..	..	57	35	37	
Iron as Fe .. ..	..	..	0.03	0.04	0.04	
Sodium as Na .. ..	..	..	16	18	10	
Potassium as K .. ..	..	..	4	3	4	
Manganese as Mn ..	..	..	Less than	Less than	Less than	
			0.01	0.01	0.01	
Fluoride as F .. ..	..	..	0.14	0.13	0.27	
Silica as SiO <sub>2</sub> .. ..	..	..	17	17	22	
Phosphate as PO <sub>4</sub> ..	..	..	Less than	Less than	Less than	
			0.05	0.05	0.05	
Lead as Pb ... ..	...	...	Less than	Less than	Less than	
			0.01	0.01	0.01	
Copper as Cu ... ..	...	...	Less than	Less than	Less than	
			0.10	0.10	0.10	
Zinc as Zn ... ..	...	...	Less than	Less than	Less than	
			0.02	0.14	0.02	

In addition to the samples taken by the Water Board, 13 were also submitted to The Public Health Laboratory Service at Bedford by your Public Health Department—all of which proved satisfactory.

**(b) Privately Owned Sources**

There are now 12 privately owned sources of supply in the area serving 14 isolated occupied dwellings and one mill.

23 samples of water from these sources were submitted for examination, 17 of which were found to be satisfactory and 6 suspicious.

In all cases where doubt exists as to the purity of the water, householders are advised to boil all water intended for drinking purposes.

### (c) Distribution of water

The following table shows the estimated population at the end of the year supplied from public mains, the number of houses with a direct mains supply and the number having a private supply:—

PARISH	Estimated Population supplied from mains	Estimated Number of Dwellings		
		With direct mains supply	Mains supply to standpipe	Dependent on other source
Arlesey .. ..	3782	1316	—	2
Astwick .. ..	31	13	—	—
Blunham .. ..	805	396	—	—
Campton .. ..	1602*	284*	—	3
Chicksands ..	1250*	421*	—	2
Clifton .. ..	2570	745	—	—
Cockayne Hatley	85	34	—	—
Dunton .. ..	464	191	—	1
Edworth .. ..	39	24	—	—
Everton .. ..	399	155	—	—
Eyeworth .. ..	68	26	—	1
Henlow .. ..	3567*	939*	—	—
Langford .. ..	2356	817	—	—
Meppershall ..	917	314	—	—
Mogerhanger ..	579†	220	—	—
Northill .. ..	1721	593	—	2
Old Warden ..	402‡	101	—	1
Potton .. ..	3026	1098	—	1
Shefford .. ..	2683	949	—	—
Southill .. ..	1127	380	—	1
Stotfold .. ..	6721†	1815	—	—
Sutton .. ..	354	105	—	—
Tempsford .. ..	493	124	—	—
Upper Stondon ..	91	26	—	—
Wrestlingworth ..	510	182	—	—

\* These figures include Service personnel and houses.

† These figures include hospital patients and personnel.

‡ These figures include college students and staff.

### (d) Drainage and Sewerage

- (i) Following approval of the Arlesey, Stotfold and Five Parish Sewerage Schemes, work was commenced on Phase 1 in October, but progress was slow and by the end of the year the access road was under construction.
- (ii) By the end of the year the scheme for Potton and Sutton was at the design stage. The work was delayed by the necessity to revise original plans, due to the decision to close the Tanyard and the consequent decrease in strength and flow to the works. Further delay was caused when planning per-



mission to erect a sewage pumping station in Sutton was refused. An appeal was lodged in January and it was not until December that the Council were informed it had been dismissed.

- (iii) Schemes for the parishes of Southill (including Broom and Stanford) and Old Warden, are at the design stage and will provide for sewage to be treated at the Clifton Works.
- (iv) The Consultant's feasibility survey of the possibility of providing public sewerage facilities in the hamlets of Thorncote Green, Hatch and Budna, was received in December and will be considered by the Council early in the new year.

#### **(e) Cesspool Emptying**

Labour for this work is provided by a contractor who has discharged his duties in a most satisfactory manner throughout the year.

The total number of emptyings carried out during 1971 was 649 as compared with 709 in 1970. This figure includes 60 which were emptied on behalf of Biggleswade Urban District Council.

Income from the emptying of cesspools during 1971 amounted to £956 as compared with £1,355 in 1970.

Labour disputes considerably delayed delivery of a new Shelvoke & Drewry cesspool emptying vehicle and although delivery was originally promised before the end of 1970 it was not received until August 1971.

In September the Council reviewed the service and as a result it was decided to allow two free emptyings per year at properties outside the drainage areas and to increase the charges for more frequent emptyings from £1.05 to £1.50 per hour. The charges made in respect of properties within drainage areas remain the same with the exception, that new properties erected within drainage areas but unable to be connected to the public sewerage system because of "stand-still" orders, be allowed the same services as those outside the drainage areas.

The revised arrangements come into operation on 1st January, 1972.

Contents of cesspools are disposed of by irrigation on an area of waste land which the Council hire in the parish of Potton.

#### **(f) Nightsoil Removal**

This service has again continued to operate satisfactorily throughout the year. A contractor provides the labour and operates the Council's cesspool emptier which is fitted with a night soil attachment.

The number of weekly emptyings was 199 as compared with 215 in 1970. It is obvious that until further parishes are provided with public sewerage facilities, this figure will remain fairly constant, the only variation being due to conversions of pails to W.Cs. as and when houses are improved and modernised.



### **(g) Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Household refuse is removed at weekly intervals by contractors.

On 1st April the paper sack method of storage of refuse was extended to cover all dwellings throughout the area. The sacks are used as bin liners and when a refuse bin becomes unserviceable, it is replaced free of charge by an approved type sack holder.

Free collections of bulky refuse are also undertaken upon request and during the year no fewer than 782 requests for this service were received. This represents an increase of 168 over the previous year.

In spite of this service, the dumping of refuse on highway verges continues and in an effort to prevent this, and in accordance with a recommendation contained in the report "Litter in the Countryside", the Council decided that for a trial period of one year commencing on 1st April, 1972, bulk refuse containers should be placed for a week at a time in each parish at quarterly intervals. It is hoped this will help to reduce the amount of indiscriminate dumping in the countryside and reduce the high cost of special collections which during 1971 amounted to £1,645, almost £400 more than the previous year.

Refuse from the whole of the rural area and Biggleswade Urban District, is disposed of by means of controlled tipping in part of a sand pit at Deepdale, Potton. During the summer months every precaution is taken to prevent infestation by vermin, flies or other pests.

A new Massey Fergusson 200 crawler/loader and a steel fab power unit for moving soil for covering the refuse, were purchased during the year and an order was placed with Messrs. W. & R. Avery Ltd., for a weighbridge.

Because of the serious problem of refuse disposal particularly in North West Hertfordshire a panel of technical officers from that area and South East Bedfordshire was appointed some time ago to consider the matter and to prepare a report.

Following the publication of their report at the beginning of the year a meeting of representatives of the Authorities concerned was held in March when it was decided to form a Joint Committee consisting of 2 elected representatives from each of the constituent Authorities.

The first meeting of the Committee is expected to be held early next year.

The number of abandoned and derelict cars dealt with by the department was 71, an increase of 22 over the previous year.

They were dealt with as follows :—

Abandoned and removed by the Council ... ..	18
Removed by owners after action by this Department ...	9
Taken to tip by owners and disposed of by Council ...	6
Removed by Council at request of owners ... ..	38
	<hr/>
	71
	<hr/>

Every effort is made to trace the owners of abandoned vehicles and to recover expenses incurred in their removal and disposal. During the year the sum of £47.00 was recovered.

A local contractor collects and disposes of the vehicles at a charge of £2.50 per vehicle. No charge is made for the disposal of vehicles taken to the tip by owners.

### (h) Inspection of the Area

The following summary gives details of the visits and inspections made during the year:—

#### *General Sanitation*

Water Supply .. .. .	25
Drainage .. .. .	157
Watercourses .. .. .	36
Piggeries .. .. .	28
Scavenging .. .. .	2,812
Abandoned and derelict cars .. .. .	91
Atmospheric pollution .. .. .	12
Places of entertainment .. .. .	5
Noise nuisances .. .. .	31
Animal Boarding Establishments .. .. .	17
Offices, shops and railway premises .. .. .	401
Factories, workplaces and outworkers .. .. .	114

#### *Housing*

Public Health Acts .. .. .	331
Housing Act .. .. .	273
Overcrowding .. .. .	1
Caravan dwellings .. .. .	151
Caravan sites .. .. .	32
Improvement Grants .. .. .	357

#### *Infectious Disease, etc.*

Investigations .. .. .	7
Immigrants re Health Service, etc. .. .. .	2

#### *Meat: Food Inspection*

Slaughterhouses .. .. .	601
Butchers .. .. .	122
Food preparation premises .. .. .	56
Canteens .. .. .	8
Restaurants .. .. .	21

Grocers .. .. .	76
Greengrocers .. .. .	10
Mobile shops .. .. .	10
Licensed premises .. .. .	15

### (i) Rodent Control

One whole time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council and he is responsible for carrying out surveys and the treatment of infested premises. The service is free in respect of domestic premises and a small charge on a time and material basis is made for any work carried out at business premises.

The operator carries out regular inspections and treatments at the refuse tip and all sewage disposal works. Routine test-baiting of sewers is also undertaken or if infestations are found the necessary treatment is carried out.

The following table indicates the amount of work carried out during 1971 :—

		<i>Type of property</i>	
		<i>Non-</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
		<i>Agricultural</i>	
(a) Total number of properties inspected following notification .. ..	420	—	
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	281	—	
(ii) Mice ..	67	—	
(c) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification ..	969	—	
(d) Number infested by (i) Rats ..	54	—	
(ii) Mice ..	11	—	

A very old length of sewer in King Street, Potton, was again found to be infested with rats which at one stage burrowed up from the sewer into the gardens of nearby houses. After persistent efforts by the Rodent Operator the infestation was brought under control and the defective length of sewer was repaired.

I fear however, that this can only be regarded as a temporary measure until such time as the sewer can be relaid as part of the major scheme of modernisation and extension of sewerage facilities in the parish.

### (j) Lodging Houses

There are no lodging houses in the district.

### (k) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

One office and one warehouse were registered during the year and the total number and types of premises registered at the end of the year were as follows :—

<i>Type of premises</i>	Number registered	Persons employed
Offices .. .. .	35	413
Retail shops .. .. .	58	201
Wholesale shops, warehouses, etc. ..	9	80
Catering establishments, canteens ..	15	34
Totals:—	<u>117</u>	<u>728</u>

The total number of visits to premises registered under the Act was 401. As a result 8 minor contraventions were found—all of which were subsequently remedied.

I am pleased to report that no accidents were notified during the year under Section 48 of the Act.

## 7. FOOD

### (a) Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the area, and during the year 17,900 animals were slaughtered as compared with 18,083 in 1970.

All carcasses were inspected before leaving the slaughterhouses.



### (b) Inspection of Meat

The following summary indicates the number of animals slaughtered and the incidence of disease found as the result of post mortem inspection:—

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	4,417	507	33	3,697	9,246
Number inspected .. ..	4,417	507	33	3,697	9,246
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	3	1	7	45
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2,325	262	1	214	1,680
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis or cysticerici ..	52.75	52.27	6.06	5.97	17.39
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	158
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—	—	1.71
<b>CYSTICERCI:</b>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	12	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—

All cases of Cysticerici were localised and were subject to the prescribed refrigeration treatment.

The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 18 tons 9 cwt. 3 qrs. 0 lbs. as compared with 22 tons 13 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs. the previous year.

### (c) Other Foods

In addition to the above, other foods found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed, were as follows:—

Margarine	...	...	...	15 lbs.
Honey	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Canned meat	...	...	...	13 lbs.
Other canned foods	...	...	...	465 tins

#### **(d) Milk Supplies—Brucella Abortus**

No samples of milk were taken by the department for evidence of Brucella Abortus. This work is undertaken by the County Public Health Inspector who advises me that samples of untreated milk are taken at monthly intervals throughout the County.

No positive samples were found within the Rural area during the year.

#### **(e) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963**

There are no liquid egg pasteurization plants in the district.

#### **(f) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970**

The number of food premises in the district is set out in the following table, each establishment being counted only once according to the main business carried out.

<i>Type of business</i>	<i>Number in district</i>
Grocers .. .. .	59
Butchers .. .. .	20
Bakers and confectioners .. .. .	9
Fishmongers .. .. .	5
Fruiterers and greengrocers .. .. .	8
Hotels, cafes, restaurants and other catering establishments .. .. .	11
Public houses .. .. .	77

All premises are fitted to comply with Regulation 18. There are 134 premises to which Regulation 21 applied. All are fitted to comply with this regulation.

#### **(g) Poultry Establishments**

There are no poultry processing establishments within the district.

#### **(h) Ice Cream**

104 establishments are registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream and 2 for the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

During the year 8 samples were submitted for examination—all of which proved satisfactory.

#### **(i) Licences to deal in game**

8 Licences to deal in game were issued in 1971.

## 8.

**HOUSING****(a) Housing Conditions**

Action taken under slum clearance procedure during 1970 may be summarised as follows :—

Unfit dwellings demolished	...	...	...	...	20
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	7
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	14
Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders substituted					4
Undertakings to repair accepted	...	...	...	...	14

The number of families rehoused was 17 (51 persons).

During the year 65 dwellings were erected by the Council and 145 by private enterprise.

**(b) Improvement Grants**

65 applications for improvement grants were received and approved during the year compared with 66 in the previous year.

These may be summarised as follows :—

**(i) Standard**

Applications in respect of which houses were—

Owner/Occupied	...	11
Tenanted	...	5

Total cost approved for grant purposes	...	...	...	£4,817
Average grant per house	...	...	...	£301

Amenities provided :—

Fixed baths	...	...	...	...	13
Wash hand basins	...	...	...	...	13
Sinks	...	...	...	...	7
Hot and cold water supplies	...	...	...	...	14
W.Cs. within dwellings	...	...	...	...	15

**(ii) Discretionary**

Applications in respect of which houses were—

Owner/Occupied	...	...	40
Tenanted	...	...	9

Total cost approved for grant purposes	...	...	£39,362
Average grant per house	...	...	£619

### (c) Qualification Certificates

The number of applications for Qualification Certificates and the number of certificates issued during 1971 was as follows :—

#### Improvement cases—

No. of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(2)	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of certificates of provisional approval issued	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of qualification certificates issued under section 46(3)	...	...	...	...	...	3

#### Standard amenities already provided—

No. of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(1)	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of certificates issued	...	...	...	...	...	2

### 9. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Section 3(3) of the above Act requires a person proposing to install a furnace or boiler, other than a domestic boiler with a heating capacity of less than 55,000 Btu per hour, to give notice of intention to the local authority.

Only one such notification was received and approved during the year.

Routine observations of smoke emission from industrial chimneys were carried out but no infringements were noted.

3 complaints of nuisance from domestic bonfires were dealt with.

### 10. NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The growing concern of the public regarding the pollution of the environment by noise, highlighted by the publicity given to protests against the siting of airports, etc., has no doubt been responsible for the increase in the number of calls for the services of this department on the part of the public where they feel that the amenities of their locality are being steadily eroded by noise, particularly in districts where housing development has taken place adjacent to areas already allocated to industry or vice versa.

During the year 15 complaints were received, all of which related to noise emitted from two factories on two small industrial estates.

Meter readings indicated that the noise caused by compressors in use at each factory was at such a level as to constitute a nuisance. Fortunately it was possible to secure the abatement of the nuisances by informal action. In one case the compressor was resited further away from dwellings and in the other, improvements to the exhaust system were carried out and no further complaints were received during the year.



In the meantime, however, residential development has been permitted on land adjoining one of the industrial estates. This will result in dwellings being erected considerably closer to the factory which has already been the subject of complaints by tenants of existing dwellings in the vicinity.

## **11. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963**

There are 4 licensed Animal Boarding Establishments in the area. 17 visits were made to these premises—all were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

## **12. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1958**

Two licences were issued under this Act during the year.

## **13. SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT, 1964**

The number of registered scrap metal dealers in the area at the end of the year was 15 of whom 7 as itinerant dealers were exempt from the requirement of keeping certain records.

## **14. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961**

### **(Part 1)**

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices and Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	5	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. ..	106	108	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) .. ..	—	—	—
Total	111	114	—

## 2. Cases in which defects were found:

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	—	2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	2	—

## 3. Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133(I)(c).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel	18	—	—	—



